

To see this country now; to see what, out of the ashes, it has become; to see, from a very poor country, what a great democracy it has; to see the leadership of this great President; to see what a friend we have in that region when we are having a horrible time in economics and peace and in war, that this country always has our back; the great contributions Korea has made to this country, those that have become citizens, makes me proud to be an American.

So when she comes here, the Congress is so proud that some of us were able to make just a small contribution to keep her from falling into the hands of the Communists and then becoming our seventh great trading partner, a leader of the region and a leader of the world.

CONGRATULATING ELISE WARDEL

(Mrs. LOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elise Wardel, who became a U.S. citizen last week in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Like many others, Elise came to Utah to attend one of our quality universities. She has now worked hard, paid taxes, and contributed to Utah's close-knit society and a thriving economy for more than 11 years. She has worked through some difficult processes, becoming naturalized, for more than 2½ years.

She and her husband, Adam, are expecting their first child this coming April and are grateful to raise their child here in the land of the free and the land of opportunity. I am grateful to count her among my newest constituents and extend her and Adam my best wishes.

People like Elise enrich our Nation. I am proud of them for taking the required steps to become U.S. citizens. I believe that Congress must do its job so that Elise and many others, like my father, can enter our Nation through the front door.

As the child of immigrant parents, I welcome all of Utah's new American citizens and pledge to work hard so that they can have access to the American Dream like I have.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the President of the Republic of Korea, President Park, on her arrival in Washington, D.C., next week.

I had the honor of meeting with President Park during my last visit to Korea last December, where we discussed the synergistic partnerships and opportunities between the U.S., Silicon Valley, and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, we must look to build new bridges and reinforce the connectors that have already contributed so much to our mutual benefit.

As President Park said when she addressed the joint meeting of Congress in 2013: "Looking forward, our precious alliance is setting its sights on a better world—a brighter future."

I wish President Park a very successful and fruitful visit to the U.S. and summit with President Obama. No doubt, our two nations' very special alliance will grow even stronger in the coming years.

MAY GOD BLESS THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, many of you know South Carolina was inundated with a historic rainfall. They call it a 1,000-year rain event. The rivers have not crested yet. The floods continue. Many South Carolinians are displaced. Many are hurting.

I just want to ask the House and America to continue to lift my home State up. But let me remind you then, in the 24th Psalm, it is written: "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein, for He hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods."

Thank you for your prayers, and may God continue to bless the Palmetto State of South Carolina, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, our neighbors in the Senate have introduced and agreed to a resolution that recognizes Thursday, October 8, as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day. I invite my colleagues to support this commemoration and affirm our resolution to bettering our Nation, our economy, and, certainly, our environment.

As the planet's most abundant natural resource, hydrogen has a critical role to play in the way we think about renewable energy. It is already powering homes and vehicles across our Nation and has the potential to do even more if we recognize that energy efficiency should be our fuel of choice.

Businesses are already reporting success stories about their use of hydrogen fuel cells and the elimination of carbon emissions. The once pricey and seemingly unfeasible source has now become a practical avenue for America's energy demand, and it is because we invested in that unique American inno-

vative spirit and made it so. We should learn from this and apply that attitude to other corners in our energy sector.

Our Nation is projected to increase its energy consumption through 2040, and climate change is certainly a reality. We have no choice but to face that head-on. Please join me as we strive to make America the leading nation for renewable energy, a goal we can advance right now by recognizing this day as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to commend my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 and to call on the President to sign this vital bill into law.

It is the constitutional responsibility of Congress to provide for the common defense of this Nation. Right now, our country faces growing and very serious threats. Unrest continues to escalate in the Middle East, and our troops are fighting terrorism around the world. Yet the President has threatened to veto this legislation, which provides our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to defend themselves and America's national security at home and abroad.

The President's veto threat is dangerously irresponsible. We must fulfill our duties to support our troops and their families who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation.

Congress has acted in a bipartisan fashion to pass this legislation, equip our military, and bolster national defense. Instead of putting our national security at risk, the President should sign this bill into law so we can keep our military strong and Americans safe.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome President Park Geun-hye to the United States for her state visit next week. The United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a warm friendship built on a commitment to security, joint economic development, cultural exchange, and the democratic process.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war. Korea has transformed itself in six decades from a war-torn economy into the 13th largest economy in the world, and it represents one of America's greatest foreign policy success stories.

President Park's visit will reaffirm our strong bilateral relationship at an

important time, as our countries work together to address mutual security threats and improve regional security.

President Park's approach to North Korea and her focus on reuniting families who have been separated by the Korean war has given renewed hope to many Korean Americans in the United States. I am sure her visit will lead to new areas of cooperation between our countries.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Korea Caucus here in Congress, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I extend my warm greetings to President Park on her second official visit to the United States.

The U.S. and the Republic of Korea share deep ties, an alliance forged in blood and sweat and toil. Out of the Korean war emerged one of the great miracles of economic development the world has ever seen, the Republic of Korea.

The ROK has emerged as an economic juggernaut with a vibrant democracy and a strong alliance with us, the United States. During the President's visit, I think she will be glad also to find that those ties are familial. We have a deep and vibrant community, Korean American community here in the United States, including right here in the national capital region and in my district in northern Virginia.

Alliances are often defined by military or economic ties. Our ties go even deeper. Those family ties are what connect us with the Republic of Korea and the Congressional Caucus.

I wish the President well, look forward to a successful trip, and look forward to continuing to work with her and her government as the co-chairman of the Korea Caucus.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL PIANTANIDA

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce that Al Piantanida passed away on August 31.

He was a veteran but, more importantly, a good American. Al is what I would call the perfect constituent, the perfect friend, and the perfect neighbor.

Al would come to his elected officials' offices all the time and let us know what was going on in the community and what was going wrong in the community, but never once—never once—did Al complain. He always said: How can I be part of the solution?

To me, that is not only a good person, but that is what makes America great: human beings who have the time and the resources to give of themselves and are not there to complain but are there to make sure that their neighborhood, their community, and their country are a better place.

We are going to miss Al. He was a selfless individual and someone who was always giving of himself, and he always was creative in making sure that he was part of the solution and was always there for his community in every way possible.

Al was a personal friend. I met him through my responsibility as an elected official in the community, but I grew to love him as a person and to appreciate him very much.

We are going to miss you, Al, but you will never be forgotten.

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FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to kick off the Future Forum Special Order hour. Today we will be bringing attention, once again, to the issue of college affordability and student loan debt. We also have a few surprises in store today, as I will be joined by my Future Forum colleagues.

I first want to report that just earlier this week, on Monday, the Future Forum, which is a group of about 16 to 17 of the youngest members in our caucus, went out to Seattle. Congressman KILMER, who represents the Seattle area, was joined by myself and RUBEN GALLEG0 of the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

We went across the Seattle area. We talked to college students, community college students, college graduates, a millennial workforce, and also folks in the tech sector in Seattle.

We went to the University of Washington Tacoma and met with veterans. We went to the University of Puget Sound and talked to students. We went to an SEIU training center and talked to the next generation of their workforce.

We were also able to go to Amazon. We went to amazon.com and had a town hall there with their millennial workforce, and we were able to listen to them and their concerns about the future.

We heard a common thread through all of these diverse groups, America's largest generation, millennials, 80 million people. They are concerned about their future.

They are concerned about their ability to afford and have access to go to college. They are concerned about how much it is going to cost them when they get out and the student loan debt

that they are going to be burdened with.

It was another successful Future Forum trip. It was the eighth one we have taken this year, ranging from New York, Boston, New Hampshire, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, and now Seattle.

I encourage anyone watching to engage with us on Twitter. I will be a part of the conversation. I will read and respond to any questions as we go along.

First, today I am joined by a colleague of mine, a Future Forum member from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Congressman MARC VEASEY.

Congressman, we are encouraging a conversation around these issues at #futureforum.

I have been to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. I have seen the way you engage with young people in your district.

I want to know just what are you hearing out there about your constituents and their ability to go to college, your constituents and their ability to pay for college? And, once they get out, how is student loan debt affecting their opportunities?

Mr. VEASEY. Congressman SWALWELL, thank you very much. I really appreciate your leadership on Future Forum and bringing up important issues like student debt. It is a real issue that so many of our young people struggle with when they graduate from college.

In one of the articles that I was reading about student debt, a national magazine put some Instagram photos up of young people and the problems and the issues that they have with student debt. Some of the kids put up some really creative things.

One of the graduating students, on their graduating hat, instead of "Game of Thrones," it said "Game of Loans." Another sign that I saw at one of the college graduations said, "I will soon be joining millions of other young people that are graduating from college, and I will be consumed with thousands of dollars in debt."

But while these Instagram photos are cute and funny and I am sure are a way for young people to take their minds off of what is going to be facing them in thousands of dollars of debt, we know that this is a very serious issue.

Our young people that are graduating from college are putting off buying a house. They are putting off buying that new car. Those sorts of things play a role in how well our economy does.

And I think, more importantly, you hear a lot of young people that are graduating from college saying that they are putting off starting a family.

That is one of the most important things that we do as young people as we graduate from college and make our way into the world, is that we start that next generation.

And in order for us to start that next generation with confidence, kids need to know that when they graduate from college, they are not going to be burdened with all of this debt.